BATTLEWORLD

SIEGE

#2

GILLEN
ANDRADE
PUTRI
STRAHM
LEE
ROSENBERG

MARVEL

SECRET WARS

THE SHIELD.

DON'T GO. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SWITCH COMMANDERS. I NEED YOU *HERE.*

KANG IS DESPERATE FOR THE JOB. LET *HIM* GO LEAD THE HEL-RANGERS.

HE IS IGNORANT, VAINGLORIOUS, AND KNOWS NOTHING OF THE DEADLANDS.

I THINK IT FAR MORE LIKELY I CAN FIND THIS "THANOS" BEFORE HE BRINGS THE HAMMER DOWN.

TWENTY DAYS IS TIME APLENTY TO RETURN BEFORE THIS PROPHESIZED DISASTER. WHEN I FIND MAGIK, WE ARE BUT A SINGLE STEP AWAY--

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND HER, LEAH.

SHE WOULD NOT LEAVE ME HERE ALONE.

FROM THE FIRST GLIMPSE, I KNEW WE WERE DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER.

REMEMBER HER FIRST DAY HERE?

Abigail Brand's War Journal.

Illyana Rasputin arrived and made a big impact. I like her.

Mainly, as she's useful. I hate fighting the Deadlands most of all. Science I can understand. These monsters slouching towards us, powered by Doom-knows-what eldritch nonsense? Can't deal with that.

It's why I need as many magical specialists as possible. Leah has been great by herself, but this blonde from Limbo really knows what to do to the un-dead. Which is mainly to remove the "un."

Look at me. I'm making jokes. I'm optimistic. I haven't felt this good since...

No. Not today, Abigail. Not today.

Anyway: Illyana Rasputin. I like her.

But not as much as Leah does.

(Illyana and Leah, sitting on a metallic colossus, K-I-S-S-I-N-G.)

MAGIK IS OUT THERE...

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE WILL BE TOGETHER.

YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE COMING BACK.

I WILL BE BACK, ABIGAIL BRAND.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME. NO MATTER WHAT, DO NOT WORRY.

I AM LEAH HEL-RANGER.

I AM THE QUEEN-SIRED GIRL WHOSE KNEES WILL BEND TO *NO ONE.*

I WILL *BREAK* THIS WASTELAND.

SIEGE

TO WASTE THEIR LIVES SAVING PEOPLE WHO JUST DON'T CARE? IT'S THE ONLY THING THEY'VE EVER WANTED.

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THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.

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NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**!

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THE MORE CIVILIZED DOMAINS TO THE NORTH ARE PROTECTED FROM THE VIOLENT, UNGOVERNABLE TERRITORIES TO THE SOUTH BY A PLANET-SPANNING WALL KNOWN AS THE **SHIELD**.

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ABIGAIL BRAND IS COMMANDER OF THE SHIELD, A POSITION SHE ACQUIRED AFTER **NICK FURY** DISAPPEARED OVER THE WALL. HER SECOND, **LEAH OF HEL**, IS SOON TO GO OVER THE WALL IN SEARCH OF HER LOVE, **MAGIK**. HER NEW SECOND, **KANG THE CONQUEROR**, IS ON SOMEWHAT SHAKY GROUND AFTER A TIME-DISPLACED VERSION OF HIMSELF APPEARED, CLAIMED THE SHIELD WOULD FALL IN 20 DAYS, AND DIED.

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WELCOME TO THE SHIELD.

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15 DAYS LATER. 5 DAYS BEFORE THE SHIELD FAILS.

GOOD NEWS!

I AM TO BE REMOVED FROM YOUR CURIOUSLY COLORED HAIR!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KANG?

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE HEL-RANGERS.

SO YOU NEED A NEW COMMANDER, ONE THAT ***WON'T*** BE CONSUMED BY A SHUFFLING HORDE WITHIN A MERE COUPLE OF DAYS.

SUMMERS...

YES, MA'AM?

BRING ME A GUN.

MA'AM... HE'S BAITING YOU.

YOU ATTACK WITH DEADLY FORCE AND HE'LL BE PERMITTED TO DEFEND HIMSELF APPROPRIATELY.

IF HE KILLS YOU, HE'LL TAKE COMMAND.

I'LL TAKE THAT "IF."

DAMMIT, BRAND!

YOU SPOIL KANG'S FUN *AND* STRIKE A SUPERIOR?

IF I WERE HER, I WOULD HAVE YOU EXECUTED.

IS SHE *THAT* SOFT?

I DON'T CARE IF SHE EXECUTES ME.

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

I'M A CLONE. BARON SINISTER MADE THOUSANDS OF ME BEFORE DECIDING WE WERE SURPLUS TO HIS REQUIREMENTS.

I'M DISPOSABLE. IF I'M EXECUTED, MY SECOND CAN TAKE MY PLACE.

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* ABIGAIL BRAND. THE SHIELD NEEDS HER.

WHY DO YOU DEFEND HER WEAKNESS? SHE FELL INTO MY SIMPLE LURE.

SHE IS NOT WORTH YOUR DEVOTION.

LEAH WAS HER FRIEND. BRAND ISN'T SOMEONE WHO MAKES FRIENDS EASILY.

SHE'S LIKE THIS WHEN SHE LOSES FRIENDS. IMAGINE HOW SHE WOULD BE IF SHE LOST LOVERS? SHE NEVER GIVES HERSELF THAT FREEDOM TO REALLY CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE JOB.

YOU REVEAL ANOTHER OF HER WEAKNESSES. LOVE IS WAR.

ONE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF ITS SCARS.

YOU'RE SHOWING *YOUR* WEAKNESS: YOU'VE NEVER LOST LIKE SHE HAS.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH!

Abiqail Brand's War Journal.

Today I answered two questions.

Firstly, what had happened to Hank. Secondly, of Perfection, the zombies or the Wave: which I hate the most.

I was hoping that Hank was still alive. I hate myself for that now. If Doom above listened to my prayer and arranged this, then it's my fault.

I should have hoped he was dead. If he was dead, the Annihilation Wave wouldn't have been able to capture him, and turn him into what tried to break through the Shield this morning.

Killing him wasn't easy, but that'd be just as true if they hadn't changed him. Who would want to kill Hank?

McCoy was a kind man. Kinder than me. Kinder than anyone.

He didn't deserve to end up like this.

I don't want to write any more.

AFTER McCOY, SHE WILL NEVER LET HERSELF LOVE *ANYTHING.*

AND YOU BETTER PRAY THAT IF YOU EVER HAVE TO LOSE LIKE SHE DID, YOU SHOW EVEN THREE PERCENT OF HER STRENGTH, AND...

...WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

A COMMANDER WHO PROVOKES SUCH LOYALTY MUST HAVE MERITS I'VE OVERLOOKED...

...AND A *SOLDIER* WHO IN SUCH A FASHION HAS SOMETHING A LITTLE FIERIER THAN *FEALTY* GUIDING HIS TONGUE.

HEY! BEARDY-FOUR-ARMS HAS AN UPDATE ON THE THANOS GUY. WANTS ME TO BRING THEM TO YA AND...

...WHAT THE HELL IS THE NOISY BROAD DOIN' ON THE FLOOR?

ABIGAIL... WE HAVE TO GO. I APOLOGIZE, BUT UNDERSTAND YOU WILL HAV--

FORGET IT. DON'T DO IT AGAIN.

I'D DEMOTE YOU, BUT WHY BOTHER?

YOU'RE ALL BASICALLY INTERCHANGEABLE.

LATER.

...AND THAT'S ALL WE HAVE.

IN CONCLUSION: WE'RE AWARE OF MANY TITANS, BUT THE ONLY VAGUELY RELEVANT ONE IS SPENDING HIS TIME ASSEMBLING SOME MANNER OF... GLOVE.

I DON'T THINK GOING AND EXECUTING SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE IN DESPERATE NEED OF A GOOD PERSONAL SHOPPER IS EXACTLY OUR STYLE.

I STILL SAY THIS IS A DISTRACTION. SOMEONE SENT A FAKE KANG TO BRING NEWS TO DISTRACT US FROM THE REAL THREAT.

WHY IS HE SO SURE?

HE THINKS A REAL KANG WOULDN'T HAVE FAILED TO NAVIGATE THE TIMESTREAM.

KANG CONQUERS.

I THINK YOU'RE WRONG. I SAW THE LOOK IN HIS EYE AS HE WAS GOING.

THIS IS BAD. THIS IS AS BAD AS IT GETS.

OH GOD, NICK.

WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO?

ABIGAIL, NO ONE SITS ON THE WALL FOREVER. YOUR TIME WILL COME. I'VE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER TWENTY, THIRTY TIMES. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

IT MEANS I'VE BEEN *WRONG* TWENTY, THIRTY TIMES.

...BUT YOU ONLY NEED TO BE RIGHT *ONCE.*

YOU'RE LIKE ME. YOU'RE TOO HARD FOR PEOPLE. FOR SOMEONE TO GET CLOSE MEANS THEY'RE WORTH SOMETHING.

TRUST THEM. THE SHIELD'S A WALL. IF YOU HAVE YOUR BACK UP AGAINST IT, MAKE SURE YOUR FRIENDS ARE WITH YOU.

BUT SHE'S GONE. HE'S GONE. YOU'RE GONE.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS?

ASK THE ROBOTS.

WE ASK THE ROBOTS.

HMM. THANOS. A FEW CANDIDATES...

I'D PRESUME IT WAS THE ONE WHO'S PRESENTLY TRYING TO ASSEMBLE--

NOT THAT ONE.

I WOULD HAVE TO REACH OUT INTO THE PERFECTION OVERMIND. DO I HAVE PERMISSION?

AH, GOOD TO HAVE ULTRON TRAITORS ON THE TEAM.

DO IT.

WHY DOES HE KNOW *ANYTHING?*

IT. WE PREFER "IT."

WELL, KANG, WE HAVE A...SPECIALIZED SKILLSET BASED ON INFORMATION ACQUISITION. WE'RE CONNECTED TO MANY PROCESSING SYSTEMS TO AID US IN OUR ORIGINAL FUNCTION OF **CONQUEST DIPLOMACY.**

WE HAVE MANY ABILITIES. IT'S PROBABLY WORTH NOTING THAT ABIGAIL LACKS ONE OF OURS-- THE ABILITY TO PRONOUNCE QUOTATION MARKS. I BELIEVE SHE WAS TRYING TO SAY "TRAITORS."

SHE BELIEVES WE HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE FOR DEFECTING FROM ULTRON'S PERFECTION...

PERISH THE THOUGHT.

AH. THERE IS A... PROBLEM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE ARMY HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION.

The Unite's Briefing Notes.

The perfection of the Ultron Engine is the grandest threat that faces the Shield. It marries the technology of the wave with the unrelenting energy of the Undead.

By our predictions, they'll have conquered the wasteland in another 47 years. At that point, with the other foes destroyed, all forces will turn north to the wall.

The situation now is difficult. The situation then will be impossible. I would predict that there will be a major Shield-puncturing event every week, which would lead to a complete destruction of all defenders and requiring Doom's direct intervention.

In short: every week, its forces would destroy the Shield. Every week, we would fail.

I would not have predicted seeing an attack of that scale for another 15 years.

But it seems my predictions were unduly optimistic, or I was missing a key piece of information.

There is a force of such size presently advancing on the Shield.

THE ATTACK STARTED THE MOMENT WE SENT THIS QUERY.

AS IF IT WAS WAITING FOR IT.

IS THIS YOUR PLAN?

ABIGAIL! WE HAVE NO SUCH SCHEME!

AND YOU HAVE NO TIME TO DISTRUST US!

ALERT. MAXIMUM ALERT. SCRAMBLE ALL RESOURCES!

GRIMM, GET US THERE! GET EVERYONE THERE!

SURE THING, BOSS...

IT'S TUNNELIN' TIME!

AN ALERT MOST MAXIMUM!

I WONDER WHAT ADVENTURES AWAIT US?

TAKE IT DOWN A GEAR. NO SHAME IN BEING AFRAID.

BEING BRAVE ISN'T THE SAME THING AS NOT BEING SCARED.

I FEAR NOTHING!

I STEP INTO THE BREACH WITH NOTHING BUT JOY IN MY HEART!

SHE'S TOTALLY

LYING WITH

EVERY PART

OF HER

BODY. SHE IS

PETRIFIED.

LYING.

KITTY *PRIDE!* GIVE THE GIRL A BREAK!

I ALWAYS *DID* PREFER HOUNDS.

NOTHING WRONG WITH LYING A LITTLE. TOO MUCH TRUTH WILL KILL YOU TOO.

YOU NEED SOME LIES TO GET UP IN THE MORNING.

I AM WELL AND FEAR *NOTHING*, MISTRESS CHAVEZ.

PRINCESS, YOU'RE HERE FOR THE DURATION, AND THAT'S BARELY LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORTH ANYONE LEARNING YOUR NAME.

YOU ARE A ONE-USE DISPOSABLE HERO. YOU WILL BE HERE, AND THEN YOU WILL BE WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE AND NO ONE WILL SEE YOUR PURPLE-PANTALOONED ASS AGAIN.

YOU *SHOULD* BE SCARED.

THIS IS SCARY &%%.

I... I...

RELAX. I WON'T LET YOU DIE, AND I WON'T LEAVE YOU.

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE ON THIS DUMB-ASS WALL.

I... I...

I'M *LADY* KATHERINE, NOT PRINCESS KATHERINE, YOU KNOW.

I KNOW, PRINCESS.

I KNOW.

OUR ENLIGHTENMENT CANNON IS PRIMED, MILADY.

IT IS READY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT US. LET US HOPE THE SOLUTION LEAVES US ALIVE TO APPRECIATE ITS GENIUS!

GOOD WORK, LEO.

KANG? GOT ANYTHING FOR US?

I'M PLAYING TIMELINE GAMES, CALLING CHRONOALLIES...

...BUT THERE ARE TEMPORAL MINES *FILLING* THE TIMESTREAM. NEVER SEEN SO MANY...

IT IS JUST AS THE OTHER KANG SAID...

LO! A FIGURE MARCHES AHEAD OF THE VANGUARD...

GIMME, LEO.

NO...

I AM THE FURY.

I KILL SUPER HEROES.

NO. NICK...

TO BE CONTINUED...

TIME BEFORE THE FALL OF THE SHIELD:

2 DAYS AND COUNTING.

THERE IS NO HOPE.

ZONE